

WASHINGTON D.C. — Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Assistant to the Speaker of the House and the only congressional member from Southern California on the House Committee on Ways and Means, voted against legislation last night that would provide \$165 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Continuing to fund the war in Iraq without a clear exit strategy from the president does a disservice to both our troops on the ground, and the American taxpayer who must foot the bill,” Rep. Becerra. “I cannot in good conscience ask my children to pay for the continuation of an open ended war that has weakened our military while doing nothing to protect our country.”

Congress thus far has appropriated \$526 billion for the war in Iraq.

In addition to the war funding, the House today voted on legislation that would both extend unemployment benefits for Americans who have fallen on hard times due to our sluggish economy, and enact the GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, which expands the education benefits veterans receive so that our fighting heroes can return home and receive a full, four-year college education.

Rep. Becerra voted for the measure.

“By ensuring that our veterans have access to the best health care and can go to a four-year college, this legislation will strengthen the middle class by making the heroes of Iraq and Afghanistan part of our American economic recovery, just like the veterans of World War II,” Rep. Becerra said. “For every dollar America invested in the original GI Bill, \$7 were returned to the American economy. That’s not only smart economic policy, but it also lives up to President Roosevelt’s moral ideal of giving ‘emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down.’”

In 2002, Rep. Becerra was one of 139 members of the House of Representatives to vote against authorizing war with Iraq. In 2003, he voted against the first emergency supplemental funding bill. He opposed the president’s escalation plan in 2007, and voted for the Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act (H.R. 2206), which passed in the House a year ago and

included a smart plan to withdraw and redeploy our troops.

- [Click here](#) to learn more about Rep. Becerra's history of opposition to the war in Iraq.

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